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- Wahl, Jean. *Les Philosophies pluralistes d'Angleterre et d'Amérique*. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1920. Pp. 323. 15 fr.
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NOTES AND NEWS

THÉODORE FLOURNOY

ON November 5, 1920, occurred the death of Théodore Flournoy, the eminent psychologist and philosopher of Geneva. For Ameri-

cans his name will always be coupled with that of William James; the friendship, based on a kinship of temperament and of philosophical views, that sprang up between the two men, and that gave us Flournoy's admirable sketch of James's thought, was a precious example of the bonds that may exist between searchers after truth. There was, in fact, a remarkable resemblance between the careers of the Swiss and the American. Like James, Flournoy took his doctorate in medicine, and like him he felt the call to a wider field of thought. After studying, at Geneva and in Germany, the natural sciences and philosophy, and after working under Wundt at Leipzig, he returned in 1885 to his native city to lecture on the history and philosophy of the sciences. His thought at this time was based largely on a thorough study of Kant; and he endeavored to formulate a position which would allow of untrammelled devotion to scientific truth while preserving the essentials of the Protestant faith to which he was sincerely attached. Like James, he preserved these two interests to the very end, and was the doughty opponent of what he called the "monistic and deterministic naturalism of 'modern thought.'" Gifted with a hatred of dogma and of closed systems, and ever ready to admit new facts and new ideas to his hospitable mind, he yet preserved rigorously the distinction between individual opinion and scientific truth. In 1890 he turned his attention definitely to psychology, and in his *Métaphysique et Psychologie* he proclaimed in ringing tones the independence of the latter discipline as a natural and experimental science. The next year he was appointed to a newly founded chair of psychology, which he insisted be in the Faculty of Sciences.

Fluornoy is most widely known as editor of the *Archives de Psychologie*, where much of his most original contributions appeared. Again like James, who wrote him, "Your work as a philosopher will be more irreplaceable than what results you might get in the laboratory out of the same number of hours," he was drawn more to a consideration of the import of the new science than to the actual routine of experimentation. Hypnotism, dual personality, and other abnormal phenomena interested him; in many respects he was a precursor of the psychanalysts, and published several volumes of researches into the dim realm of the subconscious. The psychology of religion, in uniting his two chief interests, proved a field of inexhaustible possibilities.

When pragmatism was launched it found in Flournoy a sympathetic and discerning friend, if not a blind disciple. Through lecture, article, and book, he took every opportunity to make known to the French-speaking world the philosophy of his friend. He had already done much to pave the way for it, and he found very con-

genial its voluntarism, its pluralism, above all its sense of freedom and of close contact with the common everyday realities of life. He stands as the successor of Sécérétan and Renouvier in upholding what the French call *la philosophie de la liberté*, and he advances beyond them in founding his theories upon the solid base of scientific fact.

He remained ever faithful to the ideal he expressed in the closing words of *Métaphysique et Psychologie: Dans la culture des sciences et la pratique des vertus tant privées que sociales, un même zèle; en matière de croyances métaphysiques, une complète liberté individuelle; en tout et partout, la tolérance et le support mutuels ces formes élémentaires, mais non les plus faciles, de la charité.*

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THE present rate of exchange makes it easy to subscribe to French periodicals. Those who wish to subscribe to the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale* can do so by sending \$1.20 to Professor James H. Woods, Prescott Hall, Cambridge (38), Mass. Those interested are reminded that the cost of a subscription can be divided among as many as care to join together.

At the annual meeting of 1918 the American Philosophical Association passed the following resolution:

The American Philosophical Association expresses its appreciation of the effort of the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale* to promote the knowledge of American Philosophy in France, and desires to perpetuate and deepen the intimacy between France and the United States.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY of recent French philosophy has been compiled by Professor Edmond Renoir, of Paris, at the suggestion of Professor Riley, of Vassar College, the cost of the preparation being paid by the Vassar College Library. A copy of this bibliography has been sent, through the Institute of International Education, to each member of the American Philosophical Association.